Serial No.: 09/976,277

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 6, 7, 19, 20, 21, and 23 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 8 and 22 are amended.

Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 8-18, and 22 are pending and under consideration.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to claims 6-8 and 19-23. Applicants cancel claims 6, 7, 19, 20, 21, and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants amend claims 8 and 22 to obviate the claim objections.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to claims 6-8 and 19-23 is respectfully requested.

Summary

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 8-18, and 22 are pending and under consideration. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date:

By:

Paul F. Daebeler

Registration No. 35,852

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20005 Telephone: (202) 434-1500

Facsimile: (202) 434-1501